Support to sportspersons

1237. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has enhanced financial support to outstanding sportspersons living in hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons identified, gender-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has enhanced the financial assistance to sportspersons, living under indigent circumstances with effect from 01.07.2008 under the scheme of National Welfare Fund for sportspersons, as per details given below:

(i) Eligibility Ceiling for outstanding sportspersons in indigent circumstances revised from Rs. 36,000 per annum to Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.

(ii) Assistance for fatal injury to a sportsperson raised from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh.

(iii) Assistance for sustaining injury other than a fatal injury enhanced from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 2.00 lakh.

(iv) Pension for permanently incapacitated outstanding sportsperson increased from Rs. 2500 per month to Rs. 10,000 per month.

(v) Pension in other cases enhanced from Rs. 2,000 per month to Rs. 8,000 per month.

(vi) Assistance to families of indigent sportspersons increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 2.00 lakh.

(vii) Assistance for medical treatment increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 200 lakh.

(viii) Assistance to eminent coaches, referees and umpires enhanced from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000.

(c) At present 30 sportspersons are getting pension under the Scheme of National Welfare Fund, out of which 25 are male and 5 are female.

Infrastructure for Commonwealth Games 2010

1238. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is hosting Commonwealth Games in 2010;

(b) if so, whether all infrastructure facilities like stadia and hotel accommodation would be ready before the events; and

(c) the present status of infrastructure for Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. After obtaining the necessary regulatory clearances, the work on the 13 Competition venues and most of the Training venues has commenced and is continuing apace. Time Lines, against monitorable parameters are being monitored, on a web-based monitoring system developed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The projects are expected to be completed in time for the Commonwealth Games.

Country's performance in Olympic Games

†1239. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for India always lagging behind in winning gold, silver and bronze medals;

(b) whether Government has made any investigation ever in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for Government not getting skilled players inspite of such a large population;

(d) whether Government takes the sufficient precaution regarding the selection of players;

(e) if so, the number of complaints that Government receives every year in this regard, in what manner these complaints are resolved; and

(f) the efforts being made to improve our performance in ensuing Olympic Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c) Overall performance of the country in major sporting events has not been optimal primarily due to the narrow base of talent pool that can be tapped to prepare medal prospects. This in turn is mainly on account of the inadequacy of the sports infrastructure especially at the grassroots level and the poor access to competitive sports. The Government is trying to address this at two levels. As a long term measure, efforts are being made to broad base sports at the grassroots levels under the recently launched Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA). PYKKA aims to cover all the panchayats in the country in a phased manner over a period of 10 years. Besides, promoting mass participation, this Scheme is also expected to expand the talent pool by tapping the hitherto largely unexploited rural sports talent.

(d) The selection of national team for participation in international events is primarily responsibility of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. However, the Government appoints observers to oversee the selection process with a view to ensuring that the selection process is fair and transparent. Assistance is released only after ensuring that the selection has been done in a fair manner.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.